



T. Alan Hurwitz

## From the Dean

As parents, we always are thinking about the future of our children. You should know that along with NTID's faculty and staff, I always am thinking about the future of *your* children. It is my pleasure at the start of each academic year to fill you in on our plans for continuing to provide state-of-the-art technological programs and cutting-edge educational options for the students at NTID/RIT. Our programs and options for your sons and daughters fit the real world where their future lies.

Three of NTID's objectives are directly related to the marketplace where 95 percent of those students who choose to enter the workforce after graduation will find employment and success. The first objective is to communicate to potential students and their families that we offer a wide range of programs and that we embrace a diversity of cultures and languages. Our students benefit from this diversity and gain valuable life experience as they learn. We want to market that, along with the quantity and quality of educational options we offer over other colleges.

The second objective is to maintain a dynamic and innovative curriculum. This means we constantly evaluate the marketplace of both students and potential employers to ensure that we offer the programs that attract students and challenge them to achieve results that appeal to the job market. Examples this year are the addition of the new A.A.S./A.O.S. degree program in Laboratory Science Technology and the B.S. program in ASL-English Interpretation. In 2002, we plan to fully implement an Automation Technologies program being developed in partnership with IBM. Students benefit from NTID's focus on state-of-the-art training for a rapidly changing world.

The third objective is to improve access to all aspects of college life on RIT's campus. I firmly believe we must search for ways and means to increase access to learning in a

variety of educational settings. Already, our notetaking, interpreting and tutoring services are unsurpassed. We also promote use of technological applications such as voice activation, assistive listening devices and Web technology. It is our goal to improve and support these services. Access to learning is an undeniable benefit that all our students receive.

With these objectives before us, it is shaping up to be a busy year and an exciting one. My vision as dean of NTID is to ensure that we recognize each student's different goals and strengths. Our job is to guide students toward learning that best matches their interests and abilities and allows them the best educational success. As always, we remain focused on the future success of every student.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Academic Excellence



Home for the Holidays



Scholarship Deadlines



Dorm Renovations

### Homeland security is on our minds too.

We know you are concerned about the safety of your son or daughter while he or she is away from home. Frank R. Lamas, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs at RIT, sent an e-mail to all students to assure them that RIT is receiving up-to-date information from local, state and federal agencies as appropriate. For example,

- The Student Health Center has consulted local authorities about what to do if there is any suspicious incident on campus.

- Campus medical providers have reviewed and discussed current literature to insure that they are up-to-date on what type of medical intervention would be necessary in such cases.

- Our Campus Safety Department, open 24 hours a day seven days a week, is being extra vigilant given recent events.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the Director of Campus Safety, Robert Craig at (585) 475-6194 (voice), (585) 475-6654 (TTY) or [reccps@rit.edu](mailto:reccps@rit.edu).



Susan Austin

## Financial aid awareness

By Susan Austin, coordinator of NTID Student Financial Services

More than two months into the school year, there are still students who find it difficult to resolve financial aid issues. It's important for students to be aware of and take responsibility for their own financial situation. Sometimes students, especially freshmen, have difficulty managing the financial aspects of their education. Often student accounts reflect a balance due for the simple reason that students have not signed a financial aid award letter or loan promissory note, or maybe the student has not contacted vocational rehabilitation to remind the counselor to send an authorization. If your student has any questions, he or she can contact me for help at the phone number or at the e-mail address listed below.

All students have access to the RIT Student Information System (SIS) through their RIT e-mail accounts, and they should use the SIS to check their financial status frequently each quarter until they see a zero balance. Students whose bills are not paid are not allowed to "early register" for the next quarter's classes. This makes it difficult to get into classes that fill up quickly.

In December, the RIT Financial Aid Office will send two forms to every registered student. One is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the other is the RIT Financial Aid Application for Undergraduate Students. BOTH forms must be completed before a student can be considered for financial aid for 2002-2003. If your child does not receive these applications by January 1, please contact me. I would be happy to personally mail them to you.

Finally, students frequently ask about scholarship opportunities, but they ask too late! The deadline for most scholarships is between March 1 and April 30. The best Web sites for scholarships are [netac.rit.edu](http://netac.rit.edu) and [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com). Other valuable resources are local service clubs like the Lions, Kiwanis, Optimist and Rotary Clubs.

I will be leaving NTID at the end of November. If you have questions about financial aid, please contact the Office of the Dean at (585) 475-6863 (v/TTY) or [clhndf@rit.edu](mailto:clhndf@rit.edu) or contact Gail Brown, Coordinator of RIT/NTID Financial Aid Counseling Services at (585) 475-5519 (voice), (585) 475-6909 (TTY) or [gabsfa@rit.edu](mailto:gabsfa@rit.edu).

The deadline for most scholarships is between March 1 and April 30.



Lee Twyman

## Support for your student in these challenging times

By Lee Twyman, chairperson of the NTID Counseling Services Department

At a time when anxiety about the world situation makes families want to be together, your son or daughter may be far from home — here with the NTID/RIT community. You can feel good about that because the NTID/RIT campus is a very caring one, and we provide excellent resources in support of our students. When our country was attacked on September 11, 2001, the NTID/RIT community immediately went into action to support our students.

- The Dean's office arranged for a television set in the theater and encouraged students to join staff and faculty in watching the coverage.
- Residence Life staff quickly established discussion groups with counseling personnel in attendance and gave students a forum for sharing grief, anxiety and other feelings.

- There were informal discussions on the floors in the dorms and in freshmen seminar classes, many of which are taught by certified NTID counselors.
- The RIT Counseling Center extended their hours to accommodate students.
- Campus Ministries staff held special prayer and memorial services and made themselves available for students with concerns.
- Students who were moved to take action took advantage of the opportunity to donate blood to the Red Cross. Clubs and organizations organized bake sales and found other ways to raise money to send to other helping agencies.

When a student approaches any of the counseling staff about the events of the last months, we ask if he or she has talked with family and friends at home. The stresses of the first year away from home are already great and current events on top of that can add to your student's stress and anxiety.

If your son or daughter seems more stressed than usual, it's okay to ask them if it's related to

*continued on page 3*

*continued from page 2...*

the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Remind them that counseling is available and encourage them to contact the counseling staff for help. We can even set up a three way call with you so we can all talk together about feelings they may be experiencing. It is important for you to reassure your son or daughter. Assure him or her that the campus is safe, that security is on patrol. If being alone right now is upsetting, encourage your son or daughter to spend time with other students, faculty and staff.

### **Holiday travel**

With all that is happening, travel is different now. Make sure your student knows to arrive early at the airport for check in. It's taking longer everywhere as security is increased. Also, be sure to plan for extra time waiting at the airport for the return flight. It's a good idea to meet your son or daughter or have a plan for where to meet, such as in front of the airport or at the information desk.

### **At home for the holidays**

There are several things to consider when thinking about your student coming home for the holidays. This first time home may require some adjustments on everyone's part. Your son or daughter has, maybe for the first time, experienced the independence of being outside your home. They have been able to do what they want, when they want to, and coming back into the household where rules may be different could leave everyone frustrated and upset. Talk with them about this. Ask them, "How can we as a family work with everyone's needs?" Negotiating expectations can lead to solutions that will meet their needs – and yours.

Communication upon returning home can also be a source of friction and challenge for some students and their families. Holiday



*Each student has an assigned a counselor whom he or she can visit for career and personal counseling as well as academic advisement.*

get-togethers are good opportunities to remind family members that the communication pace may need to be slowed to ensure that deaf family members can participate.

**The NTID Counseling Services Department** assigns every NTID/RIT-supported student a counselor who provides career and personal counseling services as well as academic advisement for students enrolled in NTID technical studies programs. The Center for Baccalaureate and Graduate Studies provides academic advisors for students who are fully matriculated into the other colleges of RIT or in a pre-baccalaureate program. By going to the Counseling Services Department Web site at <http://www.rit.edu>, you can find out who your son's or daughter's counselor is and get complete information about the services that the counseling department provides.

If you have questions about some aspect of your son's or daughter's college experience and would like to contact me directly, call me at (585) 475-2876 (v/TTY) or e-mail me at [lhtnbu@rit.edu](mailto:lhtnbu@rit.edu).

*David Reekers, NTID/Rit alumnus, is the newest full-time deaf campus safety officer. He can be found patrolling the NTID area as well as working special events on and off campus. Reeker's presence is another step in enhancing the RIT/NTID deaf student community's access to Campus Safety Services.*



## Residence Life

It seems there's not much in the country these days that is constructed on time and within budget constraints. If you visit the Ellingson-Peterson-Bell residence halls, you will see examples of building renovations that did both. Al Smith, Director of NTID's Division of Institutional Services says the renovations were "a very significant undertaking scheduled to minimize disruption to students."

Consequently, by the start of fall classes, except for a few last minute details, everything was ready – not a small task, as this was the first building-wide upgrade since 1973. Think electrical systems, fire alarms with sprinklers in every room, a brand new elevator for students with special mobility needs, double-paned windows against the windy Rochester winters and security cameras mounted at entryways. There are even four apartments available for visitors and guests of the college. New furniture and interior décor purchased with student input round out the 21st century look of both the residence hall rooms and lounges. This much needed renovation, at a cost of \$15 million, added electrical improvements that accommodate 21st century student life as well. Your students and their computers and other electronic devices can now easily "plug in." The bright, crisp, appealing rooms and common spaces make the residence halls more comfortable – a home away from home.



*The lobby at Ellingson is brand new—bright, contemporary and a place that just asks for students and student groups to use it. Dr. Gerry Buckley, right, Associate Dean for Student Affairs visits and chats with students selling Sigma spooky suckers as a Halloween fundraiser.*



*This room is an example of new and improved residence hall living – up close and personal. Newly painted rooms, contemporary furnishings, double-paned windows and electrical upgrades for computers and other electrical needs create comfortable and workable personal living space for students.*

## Spring/summer 4.0 students

NTID proudly acknowledges the following students who achieved a 4.0 grade point average for the 2001 spring and summer quarters.

Jennifer Accordino, ASL-English Interpretation  
Michael Adsit, Diagnostic Medical Sonography  
Melinda Armbrust, Applied Art & Computer Graphics  
Christopher Barrett, Digital Imaging and Publishing Technology  
Irene Bartok, Graphic Design  
Anna Blice, ASL-English Interpretation  
Sarah Burgett, ASL-English Interpretation  
Karen Campbell, Healthcare Billing & Coding Technology  
Patricia Canne, Healthcare Billing & Coding Technology  
Stephanie Chester, Applied Computer Technology  
Mari Clark, ASL-English Interpretation  
Luther Coman, Computer Aided Machining Technology  
Crystal Ferrell, ASL-English Interpretation  
Ronit Fix, ASL-English Interpretation  
Trisha Fries, ASL-English Interpretation  
Anna Galvan, Applied Art & Computer Graphics  
Matthew Hoffer, Applied Art & Computer Graphics  
Mian Sheng Lim, Interior Design  
Cheryl Lysik, ASL-English Interpretation  
Jessica McKinney, Digital Imaging & Publishing Technology  
Charmaine Mendonsa, Digital Imaging & Publishing Technology  
Athena Moyer, ASL-English Interpretation

Pamela Murphy, Digital Imaging & Publishing Technology  
Beth Nagel, ASL-English Interpretation  
Bethany Noyes, Mechanical Engineering  
Jingjing Pan, Applied Computer Technology  
Samantha Parish, ASL-English Interpretation  
Debra Patkin, Psychology  
Chanh Quach, ASL-English Interpretation  
Mary-Beth Robie, Digital Imaging & Publishing Technology  
Ernie Roszkowski, Telecommunications Technology  
Robert Skaggs, Applied Computer Technology  
Marianne Skuzinski, Applied Art & Computer Graphics  
Donald Slate, Industrial Engineering  
Adam Stone, Professional & Technical Communication  
Paul Thompson, Physics  
Dora Tin, Social Work  
Candice Van Wart, Fine Arts Studio  
Megan Walsh, Applied Computer Technology  
Jillian Welks, Career Decision Program  
Perry Wesberry, Business Technology  
Ronald Wrobel, Computer Integrated Machining Technology  
Joseph Wu, Information Technology

## RIT ranks in top five in U.S. News poll

In the 2002 edition of the annual survey of American colleges and universities, *U.S. News & World Report: America's Best Colleges*, RIT again ranked among the top five regional universities in the north and tied for first in academic reputation. RIT ranked fifth among northern regional universities as a best value where value rankings relate the cost of attending a college or university to its quality. To arrive at the academic reputation rankings, *U.S. News* conducted a survey at more than 1,400 accredited four-year colleges and universities. It bases its regional university rankings on academic reputation, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources, and alumni giving.

*Applefest* is an annual fall event sponsored by the Student Life Team that both encourages the college community to delight in upstate New York's delicious apples as well as creates an opportunity for staff, faculty and students to meet each other as the semester begins. Apple crisp, apple pie, apple dumplings, candied apples and just plain unadulterated apples are the order of the day. Of course, there may be an ulterior motive in this celebration. Remember what they say about an apple a day...



## Dates to remember

### RIT Winter Quarter – December 3, 2001 - March 1, 2002

December 3 Day and evening classes begin  
 December 8 Saturday classes begin  
 December 10 Last date to drop/add courses  
 December 22 Last day of classes before break  
 January 5 Saturday classes resume  
 January 7 Day and evening classes resume  
 January 25 Last date to withdraw with a "W" grade  
 February 22 Last daytime class  
 February 23 Last Saturday class  
 February 23, 25, 26, 27 Final exams – day classes  
 March 1 Last evening class  
 March 2 - March 10 Winter/spring break

### RIT Spring Quarter – March 11 - May 24, 2002

March 11 Day and evening classes begin  
 March 16 Saturday classes begin  
 March 18 Last date to drop/add courses  
 April 19 Last date to withdraw with a "W" grade  
 May 17 Last daytime class  
 May 18 Last Saturday class  
 May 18, 20, 21, 22 Final exams – day classes  
 May 24 Last evening class  
 May 25 Commencement  
 May 26 - June 2 Spring/Summer break



## Who to contact



These resources are available to help students and their parents, to answer questions and assure a successful college experience at RIT.

NTID Student Affairs  
 Dr. Gerard Buckley,  
 Associate Dean  
 gjbcfo@rit.edu  
 (585) 475-7496 (v/TTY)

NTID Student Life Team  
 Karey Pine, Manager,  
 ktprla@rit.edu  
 (585) 475-6230 (v/TTY)

Student Health Center  
 (585) 475-2255 (v/TTY)  
 (585) 475-5515 (TTY)

NTID Counseling Services  
 Lee Twyman, Chairperson  
 lhtnbu@rit.edu  
 (585) 475-2876 (v/TTY)

NTID Student Financial Services  
 Office of the Dean  
 (585) 475-6863 (v/TTY)  
 clhnfd@rit.edu

NTID/RIT Financial Aid Counseling Services  
 Gail Brown, Coordinator  
 (585) 475-5519 (voice)  
 (585) 475-6909 (TTY)  
 gabsfa@rit.edu

Campus Safety  
 (585) 475-2853 (v)  
 (585) 475-6654 (TTY)

Ellingson Hall  
 Information Desk  
 (585) 475-6149 (v)  
 (585) 475-2894 (TTY)

NTID First-Year Experiences  
 Ellie Rosenfield, Coordinator  
 edrdhd@rit.edu  
 (585) 475-6202 (v/TTY)

Substance and Alcohol Intervention Services for the Deaf (SAISD)  
 Wendy DiMatteo  
 Staff Specialist  
 (585) 475-4978 (v/TTY)

RIT Residence Life  
 Wendy Hagele,  
 Residence Director  
 Ellingson, Peterson & Bell Halls  
 wmhsar@rit.edu  
 (585) 475-6046 (v/TTY)

**Office of the Dean**  
 (585) 475-6317 (v/TTY); (585) 475-5978 (FAX)  
 alan\_hurwitz@rit.edu (e-mail)  
 http://www.rit.edu/NTID/ (World Wide Web)

*NTID ParentNews* is a publication of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, a college of Rochester Institute of Technology.

RIT will admit and hire men and women; veterans; persons with disabilities; and individuals of any race, creed, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation, age or marital status in compliance with all appropriate legislation.

**Editor/writer:** Kathy A. Johncox; kajnod@rit.edu

# R · I · T

## Rochester Institute of Technology

National Technical Institute for the Deaf  
 Office of the Dean  
 Lyndon Baines Johnson Building  
 52 Lomb Memorial Drive  
 Rochester, NY 14623-5604

**Return Service Requested**

FIRST CLASS  
 U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
 Rochester, NY  
 Permit 626